

Good afternoon

I'm writing to ask you to please vote NO on HB5263. I've been a rabbit owner for 13 years and a CT resident for 28. They are incredibly smart and sentient beings, and the third most popular household pet after cats and dogs. They can be trained to use a litterbox and have big personalities and I believe they should be given the same rights as cats or dogs. Petco and PetSmart have already stopped selling rabbits, and Whole Foods has stopped selling rabbit meat. Not only will this bill take a huge step backwards, it will also increase the rate of RHDV2 transmission in the state, putting many beloved household pets at risk. RHDV2 is an extremely contagious and deadly disease (90% mortality rate) with no cure that can kill a rabbit in a matter of 24 hours.

<https://rabbit.org/rhdv/>

Attached are a few photos of my rabbits. The grey bunny was blind and hard of hearing in his older years, the photo is of his two companions helping him get around.

Thank you

Leslie Rose